

	<p><b>IDEM Permit Guide:</b>  <b>Permitting Cooling Water Discharges</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.IN.gov/idem/guides/permit/water/coolingwater.html">www.IN.gov/idem/guides/permit/water/coolingwater.html</a></p>
---	--

### **Who May Need a Permit**

Anyone discharging non-contact cooling water - water which is used for the sole purpose of removing unwanted heat, and does not come into contact with industrial processes and materials and is not co-mingled with other wastewater - from a point source into the waters of the state must first obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Non-contact cooling water discharges are usually permitted under Rule 8 general NPDES permit-by-rule (IAC 15-8), although, in some instances the applicant may instead be required to seek an individual NPDES permit (NPDES Form 2E).

There are no limitations on the amount of water eligible for discharge under a Rule 8 permit, except that steam electric power generating stations may not discharge under Rule 8. Even a facility operating under an individual NPDES permit may apply to discharge its non-contact cooling water under a Rule 8 permit.

### **Some of the things a discharger must do to comply with requirements for Rule 8 non-contact cooling water discharge include (but are not limited to):**

- < Those seeking to discharge under the Rule 8 general permit must submit to IDEM a Notice of Intent (NOI), up to 150 days before the discharge is to commence,
- < Publish a public notice of the intent to comply with the rule in a local newspaper of general circulation, and send a copy of that notice to IDEM along with the NOI,
- < Provide a list of affected parties,
- < Name the receiving stream,
- < Identify the discharge type and location,
- < List all water treatment additives,
- < Include a \$50 application fee with the NOI,
- < Monitor, sample, and submit monthly reports regarding discharges made under the Rule 8 permit,
- < Ensure that the mixed receiving stream temperature not exceed specified maximum limits for more than 1-percent of any 12 month period and never by more than 3 degrees Fahrenheit (which may require holding ponds), and
- < Apply to renew the permit every five years, 150 days prior to the termination of permit coverage. The permit is non-transferrable.

## **What to Expect**

Upon receipt of the NOI, IDEM will review it for applicability, which takes an average of 50 days, but can take up to 150 days. As the public comment period for Rule 8 discharge permits was held when the rule was established, no further comment period is required. If the discharge is determined to be eligible under Rule 8, the facility will be included on a list of approved dischargers published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The permit becomes effective 18 days after the issuance of an approval letter which contains the permit identification number.

However, if chemical additives are used, a determination may be made during IDEM's applicability review that the additives used could cause the cooling water to pose a toxic threat to aquatic life. If such a determination is made, the discharger will instead be required to apply for an individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

The discharger will then have 120 days to file that application (NPDES form 2E), and IDEM will have 180 days, including a 30 day public comment period, to review the application and issue a permitting decision.

## **For Additional Information:**

Similarly, non-contact cooling water discharged into a receiving stream classified as an outstanding state resource or exceptional use water is not eligible for a Rule 8 permit. In that case, the applicant also must apply for an individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems Permit. To obtain a list of outstanding state resource or exceptional use waters, to secure additional information regarding discharging non-contact cooling water, to obtain a Notice of Intent form (Rule 8) or a copy of a NPDES individual permit application ([NPDES form 2E](#)) for non-contact cooling water discharges please call Sheri Owens at 317/232-8403.

## **Disclaimer**

This permit guide is intended to provide background information which should be useful in planning for a particular project that may require an environmental permit. It does not substitute for consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency and/or the appropriate rules or statute.